

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 2011

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM/PEACEWOMEN PROJECT

To further the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 on women, peace and security, at the 2011 session of the Special Committee, the following recommendations are submitted.

1. Follow-up on the recommendation from the Ten-year Impact Study

We urge the Special Committee to:

Acknowledge the findings of the Study and ask DPKO for action steps on how the key recommendation will be implemented.

Ask for follow-up on the general recommendation and thematic recommendations of the Study. The general recommendation stated that the “UN peacekeeping missions should collaborate with host-governments, UN, multilateral and bilateral partners and other stakeholders to ensure the development and implementation of a common strategic framework for gender related work in each of the thematic area covered by this report.”

2. Resources and Gender Expertise

The Special Committee continues to urge the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States to take all measures to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of peacekeeping operations to promote gender equality and empowerment of women in peacekeeping operations.

Yet, the Ten-Year Impact Study notes “the technical expertise available within missions to support implementation of its mandate in relation to SCR 1325 is inadequate. Gender units in missions are generally understaffed and under resourced relative to the tasks they are expected to accomplish.” And “the work of gender units would be facilitated by greater dissemination of SCR 1325 among all UN staff as some were reportedly not knowledgeable of its provisions and therefore not very supportive”.

Further the Study noted that “There is need to invest in developing tailored gender training for senior managers, gender advisers and programme/technical staff of other substantive areas to help them to integrate gender perspectives into their work.”

We urge the Special Committee to:

Ensure that Gender Advisors in peacekeeping missions have access to budgetary resources to facilitate implementation of gender mainstreaming activities;

Ensure that Gender Advisors are deployed at the onset of every new mission, in order to ensure effective integration of gender issues in the early stages of the mission;

Expanding the availability of gender specialists within different peacekeeping components – SSR, DDR (as noted in 10 year study);

In addition to the above, we call for the support of DPKO to include gender mainstreaming and women, peace and security work within the regular budgetary submitted to the Fifth Committee.

3. Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in Peacekeeping

Leadership and management

We are concerned about the finding of the 10-year Impact Study that the commitment of senior managers to gender mainstreaming varies across peacekeeping missions and that this responsibility has been embraced across the board.

We urge the Special Committee to:

Call on the Secretary-General and DPKO to follow-up on leadership issues and address leadership deficits. To address this, we suggest that the Secretary-General consider incorporating gender mainstreaming into the official compacts and performance assessment criteria of SRSGs/Heads of Missions.

4. Civil Society

We welcome the Global Open Day Initiative, which took place in the lead up to the 10th anniversary of SCR 1325.

We urge the Special Committee to:

Facilitate and support leadership role of local women in efforts to re-establish security and stability in post-conflict transitions (as noted in the 10-Year Study);

Call for the Global Open Day to continue on a regular basis;

Broaden and deepen support to women in post-conflict countries (as noted in 10-Year Study);

Engage partnership with women at all levels: national and local (as noted in 10 year Study).

5. Women, Peace and Security Indicators

Noting that the Special Committee stated that it “looks forward to the global indicators to assist in the implementation of that resolution.” And that the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support contributed to the development of the global indicators for monitoring implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. The specific indicators related to peacekeeping are already in use.

We call on the Special Committee to:

Ensure that there is support for member states to take on key elements of the indicators;

Opportunity to enhance accountability through use of monitoring indicators.

6. Sexual Violence

The Special Committee continues to request that observations and recommendations with regard to the issue of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls continue to be included in written reports of the Secretary-General on situations of which the Security Council is seized.

We urge the Special Committee to:

Welcome and support the new Security Council Resolution 1960.

7. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)

Noting the Ten-Year Impact Study finding that the overall number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) reported against DPKO/DFS staff increased in 2009 compared with 2008 (to 112 in 2009 from 83 in 2008), with MONUC in DRC accounting for most of the increase.

This reversed a downward trend observed since the inclusion of conduct and discipline teams in peacekeeping missions since 2006.. Robust enforcement and unequivocal example by mission leadership is needed in the application of the zero tolerance policy on SEA.”

We urge the Special Committee to:

Urge troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of both pre- and post- deployment awareness training.

Urge troop-contributing countries to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases involving their personnel.
Urge troop-contributing countries to develop mechanisms to prevent, identify and respond to cases of SEA.

Encourage cooperation with civil society in order to combat sexual exploitation and abuse.

Strongly condemn all acts of SEA.

Urge troop-contributing countries to participate in investigations involving their constituents and encourage them to exchange information with the UN.

Call for full adherence to pertinent codes, including among humanitarian elements.

Request reports of the Secretary-General on country situations to include information on SEA and related actions.

Support access to independent modern forensic methods of identification to strengthening investigations.

Encourage increased coherence on the field level, including standardisation of trainings and mandatory reporting guideline relating to SEA committed by peacekeepers and by humanitarian workers.

8. UN Women

The recent establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) provided an important opportunity to advance the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and facilitate the goal of “delivering as one”. The contributions of UN-Women will rely, among others, on the role of gender advisers in peacekeeping missions, who offer technical expertise to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective in the implementation of mission mandates.

We urge the Special Committee to:

Support UN Women in carrying out this mandate.